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SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

PROBLEMS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCE¹

FOUR points of view will be taken with reference to our theme: its importance, its difficulties, the related sciences, and fields of investigation.

We deal here with the heart of geography. The ties, infinite in number, which bind life to the earth lead surely up to man. No other phase is so insistent and so appealing as the earth's influence upon our kind. The plant and animal world joins itself to our physical habitat to enrich our environment and multiply our problems. The first members of this association came into it from the field of geology, and these men have, from meeting to meeting and from year to year, marched steadily up toward the human goal of our science. In Mr. Roorbach's recent symposium on the Trend of Modern Geography,² by far the larger number directed their call for research toward the field of geographic influence. Whether we speak of influence, or response, or adjustment, matters little. Terminology will grow unbidden, if we are exact in our thinking.

Here lies the weight of our theme. We all have a duty to do in view of the ill-founded and doubtful conclusions too often set forth, and in view of the vast extent of the unknown in this field. The factors of influence are not carefully isolated. What these forces really do and how they do it are not shown. Ripley holds it certain "that the immediate future of this science

¹ President's address before the Association of American Geographers, read at the eleventh annual meeting, Chicago, December 30, 1914.

² "The Trend of Modern Geography," *Bull. Am. Geog. Soc.*, November, 1914.